

**COUNCIL POLICY****CURRENT**

SUBJECT: ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER  
CONSERVATION TECHNIQUES  
POLICY NO.: 400-11  
EFFECTIVE DATE: September 21, 1987

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of San Diego has implemented water conservation programs when necessary throughout its history of service to the area. Burgeoning growth and seasonal dry periods furthered the conservation appeal which, by 1960, had become a standard public information program element.

During the drought emergency of 1976-77, when a 10% water use reduction was required, the City again made a major effort to implement conservation programs. In addition to special programs related to City customers, the City was involved in all of the regional efforts undertaken during the drought including public information kit distribution. Since then, most of the original water conservation programs have been continued, but on a public information level rather than a contingency or emergency level.

In 1982 the City adopted and implemented a Water Conservation Plan and Work Program per Resolution R-256583 which identified additional water conservation techniques to be implemented. Further water conservation measures were included in the City's Urban Water Management Plan and Conservation Program adopted in 1985. This Council Policy incorporates and updates the 1982 Water Conservation Plan and Work Program, and also includes concepts from the Urban Water Management Plan and Conservation Program.

**PURPOSE:**

To establish policies which assure that effective City water conservation techniques are identified and implemented.

**POLICY:**

It is the policy of the City Council that the following action plan for implementation of water conserving techniques be adhered to.

**ACTION PLAN:****A. City Buildings and Facilities**

Design of all City buildings and facilities will include appropriate water conservation devices.

- |        |    |  |
|--------|----|--|
| Action | 1. | City owned buildings and facilities will be retrofitted with faucet flow restrictors, reduced flush devices, self closing faucets and hot water pipe insulation where use of such devices are appropriate. |
|        | 2. | New buildings will be initially designed with such devices.  |

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Responsible

Department(s) Buildings Division of the General Services Department and the Housing Commission

Work Program

1. Evaluate plumbing fixtures in all City owned buildings.
2. Develop priority list for retrofit.
3. Retrofit City facilities during regular maintenance activities.

Timeline Initiated in FY 1983 and complete during FY 1987.

**B. Plumbing Code Amendments**

The Municipal Plumbing Code will be amended to increase the use of water conserving fixtures:

- Action
1. Amend the municipal plumbing code to require:
    - a. Self closing faucets to be installed in all unattended restrooms in new commercial, industrial buildings.
    - b. Hot water pipes located in unheated spaces such as attics and exterior walls are to be insulated except in locations under concrete floor slabs. This would apply to all new construction.

Responsible

Department(s) Building Inspection and City Attorney.

Work Program

1. Evaluate the benefits and the cost of proposed amendments.
2. Discuss amendments with plumbing and building industry.
3. Present code amendments to City Council.
4. Implement code amendments if enacted.

Timeline Initiated in FY 1983 and complete during FY 1987.

**C. Landscaping and Irrigation: Private Development**

The City will encourage enhancement of water conservation practices in private development of landscape and irrigation systems.

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Action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Revise City standards and specifications to encourage low water demand landscapes and efficient irrigation systems where landscaping is subject to City approval.</li> <li>2. Initiate an information/education program for developers and landscape and irrigation professionals to encourage this type of landscaping and irrigation as standard practice in situations where City approval is not required.</li> <li>3. Provide information to the public, particularly new homeowners, on landscaping and irrigation design and practices that minimize water consumption.</li> </ol>
Responsible Department(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The revisions to City standards will be accomplished through a coordinated effort by the Planning, Engineering and Development, and Park and Recreation Departments.</li> <li>2. The Planning Department will coordinate the information/education program for developers and landscape professionals.</li> <li>3. Information on landscaping and irrigation for the public will be provided by the Water Utilities Department as part of its general public information program, and by the Building Inspection Department at the time of issuing the certificate of occupancy for residential dwellings.</li> </ol>
Work Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evaluate City standards and specifications; identify changes that will reduce water demand and increase irrigation efficiency; review proposed changes with industry representatives; and present revisions for approval by the appropriate City authority.</li> <li>2. Contact industry associations to develop interest in an information/education program; identify a group(s) willing to sponsor the program; and provide assistance in designing, organizing, promoting and conducting the program.</li> <li>3. Obtain printed information from the State Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California, the San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) and other appropriate sources; publicize availability of this information; distribute select brochures as appropriate and assemble and distribute information packets for new home owners.</li> </ol>
Timeline	Initiated Action 1 in FY 1983 and complete in FY 1987.

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Actions 2 and 3 are ongoing activities which were initiated during FY 1983.

D. Public Information

The City will conduct a public information program which increases public participation in water conservation activities.

Action            1.        Conduct a public information program in conjunction with CWA.

Responsible  
Department(s) Water Utilities and Citizens' Assistance.

Work Program

1.        Distribute water conservation information provided by CWA.
2.        Cooperate with CWA to provide City staff as speakers to community groups.
3.        Develop and distribute specialized information for citizens of San Diego where appropriate, i.e. brochures, water bill stuffers.
4.        Utilize space on the water bills to print a conservation message.
5.        Provide water use information on water bills for    the same billing period in the previous year.

Timeline        This ongoing activity was initiated in FY 1983.

E. Reduce Water Softener Recharge and Backwash Cycles

The City will participate in efforts to encourage water efficient water softener usage.

Action            1.        Provide information to the water softener industry and seek their cooperation to achieve the maximum efficiency of water softeners.

Responsible  
Department(s) Water Utilities

Work Program

1.        Meet with representatives of the water softener industry to discuss a program to reduce backwash and recharge cycles.
2.        Provide the industry with the necessary information to effect efficient use of water softeners.

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3. Continue to work with the industry throughout the year.

Timeline This ongoing activity was initiated in FY 1983 and will be repeated periodically.

F. City Landscaping and Irrigation

Landscaping for all City owned property will include both low-water-use vegetation and irrigation systems.

Action 1. Utilize low water demand landscaping and efficient irrigation systems in all new projects for City parks, streets, buildings and other public areas; also utilize where feasible in replacement situations.

Responsible  
Department(s) Engineering and Development, Park and Recreation, General Services, and the Property Departments.

Work Program

1. Evaluate present procedures and specifications, identify changes that will reduce water demand and improve irrigation efficiency.
2. Incorporate revised standards and specifications in plans for landscape replacement or renovation.

Timeline This ongoing program was initiated during FY 1983.

G. Demonstration Gardens

The City will promote low water use demonstration gardens which encourage citizens to incorporate water conserving elements into residential landscape design.

Action 1. Assist CWA in siting low-water-use demonstration gardens within the City.  
2. Develop demonstration gardens within City parks and public building landscape areas.

Responsible  
Department(s) Park and Recreation, Water Utilities and Property Departments.

Work Program

1. Inventory and evaluate existing City park, public building and other publicly owned properties for appropriate garden locations.

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2. Solicit community participation in development, maintenance and instructional use of demonstration gardens.
3. Prioritize locations appropriate for development by CWA and sites that should be developed locally.
4. Begin site development in FY 1986.

Timeline      This ongoing activity was initiated in FY 1984.

H.      Water Conservation Home Design Awards

The City will participate in a program to award citizens for use of water conservation techniques in home design.

Action          1.      Develop criteria for housing designs that can be designated as “Water Conservation Homes,” and sponsor annual awards for the best water conservation building and landscape design. This activity is to be a combined effort with the Energy Program’s Energy Award Program.

Responsible  
Department(s) Water Utilities, Planning and Energy Program.

Work Program

1.      Work with CWA and the building industry to develop criteria for housing designs that can be designated as “Water Conservation Homes.”
2.      Implement the designation in conjunction with the previously approved Energy Award Program.
3.      Promote the criteria among the building industry.
4.      Encourage building design award programs sponsored by professional organizations to include water conservation features in their judging criteria.
5.      Sponsor an annual award for the best water conservation building and landscape design.

Timeline      This ongoing program was initiated in FY 1983.

I.      Emergencies

The City will participate in developing plans to manage water services during an emergency or drought conditions.

- Action
1. Continue to develop programs to manage City operations in the event of emergencies from natural disaster or drought conditions.
  2. Develop emergency plans for the management of area-wide emergencies relating to water shortage.

Responsible

Department(s) Water Utilities, Emergency Management Office and CWA.

Work Program

1. Continue to develop emergency plans for operation of City facilities.
2. Work with CWA to develop plans for emergencies.
3. Design public information literature to be used in the event of emergencies.
4. Conduct exercises to simulate disasters to test City department responses.

Timeline This ongoing program was initiated in FY 1983.

ACTION PLAN REVIEW:

Council will review progress in implementation of water conservation techniques identified in this plan on an annual basis.

HISTORY:

Adopted by Resolution R-269291 09/21/1987